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President Kennedy and the Farm Surplus

Congress Examines His Plans for Dealing with a Tough Problem

It is generally agreed that farm problems are among the toughest of all that President Kennedy faces here at home. This article discusses them and tells about the Administration's proposed course of action.

THE Census Bureau and the Department of Agriculture report that we have about the same number of Americans living on farms today as in the Civil War period. But the approximately 15 or 16 million U. S. farm people in Civil War days made up about half of all our country's inhabitants at that time, while last year our 15,669,000 farm residents were only 8.7% of a much larger population. (The figure doesn't include families who are living in rural areas but not engaged in agriculture.)

In actual numbers, the U. S. farm population rose until well into the 1900's. During recent times, however, it has dropped sharply. There are just about half as many people on farms now as in the 1930's.

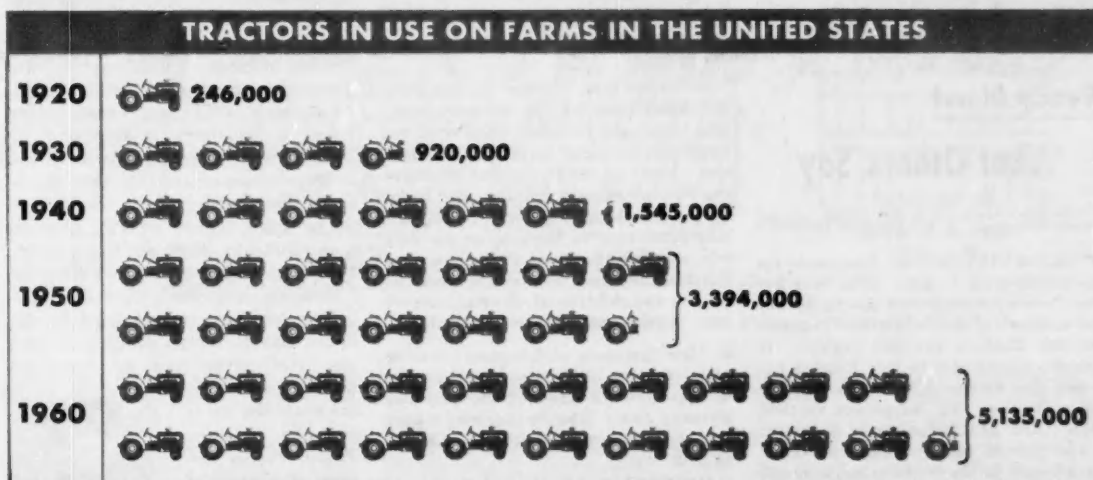
In spite of this decline, farmers have been able to supply the nation with ever-growing quantities of food and other products. The reason: a tremendous improvement in their methods and equipment. Over the last 40 years, for example, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of tractors used for agricultural work (see accompanying chart). Changes of the same kind have taken place with respect to trucks, machinery for planting and harvesting, hay balers, and so on.

Developments of this kind have resulted in larger and larger crop yields. In relation to the number of hours he works, the average farmer can produce over $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as much now as in 1930, and well over twice as much as in 1945.

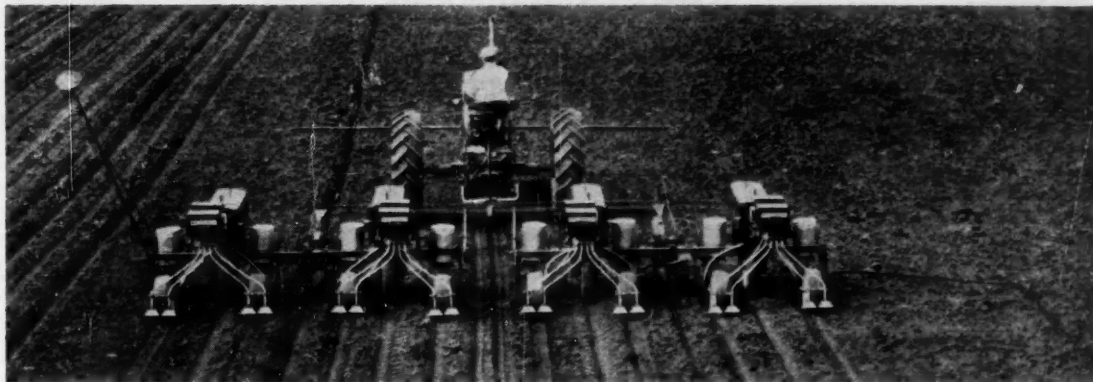
Advantages & troubles. As President Kennedy and Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman have pointed out, the American people can be thankful that they have an abundance of farm products. In many other parts of the world, severe shortages are too often the rule.

Our abundance, nevertheless, creates a serious problem. For years, farmers who raise certain basic crops have been turning out considerably more than can be sold either at home or abroad, and big surpluses have thus accumulated.

How these surpluses depress farm prices and incomes was described in an AMERICAN OBSERVER article last October: "An oversupply of any item, agricultural or otherwise, generally



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOAN ALDER



PLANTING CORN with this machine is fast and easy. Early in our history, the job was done by hand.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

drives the price down. When a product is plentiful, buyers normally don't need to bid so high for it as they would if it were scarce. Sellers, in order to unload their supplies, often accept lower prices."

For a long time, the federal government has played an active role in "supporting" farm prices—has worked to keep them from falling as low as they would have gone if it hadn't entered the picture. Even so, says Secretary Freeman, "incomes of farm families today are lower relative to

the rest of our population than they have been at any time since the 1930's."

What principal lines of action has the government followed in its attempts to bolster the farmer's earnings?

- There have been substantial efforts to boost overseas shipments of farm products—not only through outright sales, but also through programs of aid to needy countries. Since 1954, the United States has shipped more than 21 billion dollars' worth of farm items abroad. But even this hasn't been nearly enough to take care of our oversupply.

- The Department of Agriculture has acquired and stored great quanti-

ties of surplus farm items—thus taking them off the regular market and limiting their effect on prices. As a result, our government finds itself loaded down with a number of different commodities.

According to latest reports, Uncle Sam has about 9.2 billion dollars tied up in agricultural products, and is spending \$1,400,000 per day on storage. Wheat—about 3.5 billion dollars' worth—is the biggest of the items involved, and corn is next.

- Seeking to hold back further growth of surpluses, the government has restricted the acreage that can be devoted to certain major crops. On several commodities, such as wheat, compulsory limitations take effect if

(Concluded on page 3)



COLUMNIST WALTER LIPPMANN'S interesting report on recent meetings with Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev (right) is discussed below



Weekly Digest

What Others Say

(The views expressed in this column are not necessarily endorsed by the AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

COLUMNIST Walter Lippmann returned from lengthy talks with Soviet Premier Khrushchev shortly before the outbreak of the Cuban revolt against Premier Castro's pro-Red regime. It was the second face-to-face meeting between the American newsmen and the Soviet leader. Mr. Lippmann reached these major conclusions from the talks:

The Soviet leader feels that the 2 main forces in the world—capitalist and socialist—have now concluded that it is useless to "test" one another by military means. Hence, the danger of war between the 2 sides has been reduced.

However, there appears little likelihood for an early agreement on such troublesome issues as a global nuclear-test ban. Mr. Khrushchev believes our call for on-the-spot inspections to see that such an agreement is honored is nothing but a demand for the right to conduct complete reconnaissance of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Khrushchev also said he would oppose any U. S. intervention to help oust Cuba's Castro. He didn't say how far he would go in such opposition, but implied he would not go to war over the issue.

It was clear that Germany is the key world problem in the Soviet Premier's mind. He feels speed is needed to solve the German problem because, in his view, West Germany will otherwise drag NATO into a nuclear war for the unification of Germany and the restoration of the old eastern frontier.

My overall impression of the talks with Mr. Khrushchev were: "On the one hand, the evidence was convincing that Russia is not contemplating war and is genuinely concerned to prevent any crisis, be it in Laos, Cuba, or Germany, from getting out of control. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the Soviet government has a relentless determination to foster revolutionary movements in the underdeveloped countries."

The Soviet Premier firmly believes these lands will eventually accept communism. His "government has great confidence in the Red military forces. But it regards them not as an instrument of world conquest, but as the guardian against American interference with the predestined world revolution."

► "There is in most people, at most times, a proneness to give more credence to pleasant news than to unpleasant. To hope that, somehow or other, things 'will come out all right.' But this was not the frame of mind that created the United States and made it . . . a symbol of a way of life that became the hope of the world. One can fight a danger only when one is armed with solid facts and spurred on by an unwavering faith and determination."

So writes Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in the April issue of the *Atlantic* magazine. She calls for more training of our youth in the meaning of Americanism, and a study of the forces that are shaping Russia's present policies. She feels: "By practicing what we preach, putting democracy to work up to the very hilt, showing the world that our way of life has the most to offer the men and women and children of all countries, we may regain our lost leadership."

► "Our members of Congress have too little time to think," says an editorial in the April 22 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*. The *Post* quotes a high school student who visited the Capitol as follows:

"It was all very disillusioning. I went to Washington to see Congress at work. I viewed the House and Senate debates, but where were all the members? Each chamber was practically empty. Oh, yes, we went to one or 2 hearings, but neither had a quorum. Is this the way our laws are made?"

The magazine comments: "Despite outward appearances, Congress works hard and conscientiously at its tremendous tasks."

"During the last Congress, more than 20,000 bills were introduced—15,506 in the House and 4,658 in the Senate. A considerable number of them were analyzed and considered. And 800 of them were passed . . ."

But it takes a great deal of time to study each measure. Lawmakers are kept busy attending hearings or executive sessions of the 2 or more committees on which many of them serve. "When does the member of Congress do his meditating? That is a question which many [lawmakers] ask themselves."

GARY PLAYER, a 25-year-old native of South Africa, is thus far the leading pro golfer of 1961. His victory last month in the Masters Tournament at Augusta, Georgia, boosted his prize winnings to \$50,000 in less than 4 months. He is the first foreigner ever to win the Masters competition. Dark-haired Gary started playing golf at the age of 14 at the suggestion of his father, a paint salesman in Johannesburg, South Africa. The youth did so well at the game that he became a pro 3 years later. Since 1957 he has triumphed in 30 of the 65 tournaments in which he has participated. Though he weighs only 150 pounds, the South African can hit the ball a long way. Gary is



considered one of the steadiest players in the game. He takes bad breaks in stride and seldom becomes upset. To keep in shape he does 70 pushups before a round of golf, as well as deep knee-bends while holding a heavy suitcase over his head. In the Masters Tournament, he dressed in black because that color, he says, gives him "added strength." For the same reason, he munches on raisins and nuts. Another of Gary's interests is his chicken farm. He recently declined the offer of a Hollywood screen test.

On-the-Scene Report

From the Soviet Union

(This is the last of a series of articles by tennis star Donald Dell. We regret that his busy schedule made it impossible for him to write stories on all the countries he visited.)

I WENT to the Soviet Union under the U. S.-Soviet cultural exchange program—which in our country is handled by the Department of State.

The Russians treated me well. My only complaint is that it is sometimes hard to pin down officials on a course of action. They often leave details to the last moment. I didn't get definite permission to enter the Soviet Union, for example, until about a week before I was to play tennis in Moscow.

My journey from Uganda in Africa to Moscow was of itself quite an adventure. The first leg of the trip carried me to Cairo, Egypt, where I boarded a comfortable, 2-engine Russian jet. I enjoyed a good meal as we flew—so I thought—non-stop toward Russia.

However, the plane landed in Albania, tiny European satellite of Russia. Authorities took my American passport, which did not authorize me to stop in Albania. There was a moment of worry that I might be arrested for unauthorized entry, but no difficulties developed.

In the air again, we flew to Kiev, big city in the Soviet Ukraine, and were halted there by bad weather ahead. After 6 hours of confusion, I went on in a plane smaller than the jet we had first used.

It was 2 a.m., cold, and snowing when I landed in Moscow. Two Russian officials greeted me cordially. After dinner, I was driven to the famous Hotel Metropole, and joined other players who were on hand to play in the third Moscow International Tennis Tournament.

Courts and lighting at the stadium were excellent, and the tournament was managed efficiently. Every person taking part—from the smallest ball-boy in blue uniform to the chief referee—did his job expertly. Fresh towels, salt pills, and water were always available at the side of the court.

Playing tennis in Russia is an unusual experience. The crowds cry "Amerikanski" as you enter the center court. There are stares of curiosity, for Moscow's citizens still rarely see an American athlete. If you smile, onlookers smile back.

Once the match begins, the attitude changes noticeably if your opponent is a Russian. The people cheer wildly whenever their player wins a point. There is occasional applause for the visitor who makes a fine shot, but the Russians want to see their man win. When their side is losing, the Muscovites boo. Quite a number even leave the stadium.

Results of the tournament clearly showed that the Reds have developed some fine players in the very few years that they have gone in for tennis in a big way.

I was defeated in the men's singles by Britain's Alan Mills, who was ousted in the finals by the Soviet's Thomas Lewis. Russian player Irina Rjazanova won the women's singles from Italy's Silvana Lazzarino.

Co-American Mike Franks and I won the men's doubles from Russia's Sergei Lichachev and Michael Moser. It was deeply satisfying to me that the men's doubles title went to the United States.

On one tour of Moscow, I heard a concert by the University of Michigan band, which was also visiting there under the cultural exchange program. Some 10,000 Russians turned out to hear the music.

We were told that the success of such a program is measured in Moscow by the number of encores demanded. Had the band accepted the continuous urging from the listeners for more music, the players might have worked all night.

With an interpreter as my guide, I managed to visit a number of Moscow's museums, the Red Square where top Russian officials review big parades, and the massive Kremlin that has long been the center of operations for Russian leaders of government since pre-communist days.



Donald Dell

SPORTS—GOLF, LOGROLLING, AND GYMNASTICS

ELIZABETH WAMBOLDT is a champion in the unusual sport of logrolling. In this competition, 2 people stand on opposite ends of a log floating in the water. With their feet, they get the log rolling; and as it spins faster, each tries to stay on until the other falls off. The pastime has long been popular in the lumbering country of the north. Needless to say, the ability to swim



is one qualification for participants in this rough-and-ready sport. Elizabeth, whose father is a lumberman and fishing-lodge owner in Nova Scotia, Canada, first tried logrolling when she was 8 years old. It took her 6 years to master the sport, which requires a keen sense of balance. She likes to fish, and worked as a fishing guide to help pay her way through Acadia University, where she majored in chemistry and mathematics. Elizabeth is also a good basketball and tennis player as well as a skilled skier. The 23-year-old native of Nova Scotia works for the Canadian government as a research chemist. She appears at sports shows in both Canada and the United States to take part in logrolling contests. Frequently she competes against men, and often sends them flying into the water!

GREG WEISS, a junior at Pennsylvania State University, is the top college gymnast in the country. He won the title recently at the national college meet in Champaign, Illinois. His efforts helped to take the Penn State gym team to the national championship. Though a popular sport in Europe, gymnastics has received comparatively little attention in the United States. Yet in a single



meet, a gymnast is required to perform acts of greater daring and muscular strength than some football and baseball players are called upon to do in an entire season. Greg Weiss is a consistent performer in all the wide range of exercises at which a gymnast must excel. They include rope climbing, tumbling, performing on rings and parallel bars, and other events. "Greg has nerves of steel," says his coach, "as well as that rare ability to produce under extreme pressure." A native of Ridgefield, New Jersey, Weiss is aiming for a spot on the U. S. Olympic team in 1964. He would like nothing better than to give the Russians, who usually dominate Olympic gymnastic competition, a run for their money. The young gym performer is 5'6" tall and weighs about 130 pounds.

—By HOWARD SWEET

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL INVESTMENT IN SURPLUS FARM PRODUCTS

AS OF JUNE 30 FOR EACH YEAR SHOWN -- IN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

U. S. so far has been unable to eliminate surpluses of agricultural products, even though large amounts have been given away or sold cheaply abroad

Farm Surpluses

(Concluded from page 1)

approved by two-thirds of the farmers concerned.

Many farmers have been willing to accept fairly strict controls because the government, in return, has guaranteed that it would support the prices of their products at specified levels.

Problem remains. Governmental programs have been more successful with some crops than with others. On the whole, though, it is clear that the efforts to control surpluses haven't succeeded. Our surpluses have continued to grow. Many Democrats blame former President Eisenhower and his aides for the failure, while Republicans blame Congress—which has been under Democratic leadership ever since January 1955.

What are the Kennedy Administration's leading farm proposals?

• The President hopes to make further progress in distributing our food surpluses to needy countries overseas. George McGovern, a former U. S. representative from South Dakota and now a special White House assistant, is in charge of this "Food-for-Peace" effort.

Here is a specific example of what may be done: For several years, the Tunisian government has been obtaining surplus American food and using it as part of the "wages" paid to men who are working on public projects such as roads, canals, and dams. Before long, Mr. McGovern expects to see similar programs under way in 6 other lands, such as Greece, Iran, and Morocco.

• Besides pressing the Food-for-Peace program overseas, the Administration is also speeding the distribution of surplus food items among needy people here at home.

• Secretary Freeman wants to step up the government's efforts to encourage development of new industries in rural areas. A major purpose is to furnish employment for local young people who can't find jobs in agriculture—and to provide part-time work for many farmers as well. (Even now,

about 45% of our farm operators add to their incomes through nonagricultural jobs.)

• In March, Congress granted President Kennedy's request for a new law dealing with corn and other grains that are used largely for feeding livestock. Under this measure, farmers who cut back their production of such grains will be guaranteed considerably higher prices than are likely to be received by those who don't. In general, the new law represents an effort to tighten governmental controls over the planting of feed grains, which have been less heavily restricted—so far—than many other crops.

• President Kennedy's major farm proposal has been called a "do-it-yourself plan" for agriculture, because the farmers themselves would play a big role in determining the steps to be taken. The measure he seeks will, if enacted by Congress, operate as follows:

Farmers who raise any specific product, such as wheat or cotton, can elect a committee of representatives. The Secretary of Agriculture, working together with this group, will draw up a program of crop controls, price guarantees, etc., for that commodity. This program will be submitted to Con-

gress, and finally—if neither house disapproves within a certain period of time—the plan will be voted upon by all the farmers involved. It will then become effective if approved by two-thirds of these farmers.

While giving the farm committees and the Secretary of Agriculture a great deal of leeway, the Kennedy proposal would require farmers to accept strict controls on output *before* they could receive substantial price guarantees or other financial benefits from the government.

In particular, the President recommends setting up controls over the actual *quantity* of a product—in bushels of wheat or bales of cotton, for instance—that a farmer can send to market. At present, in most cases, this is not done. Instead, the farmer is merely limited as to the number of *acres* he plants. So he chooses his best land, concentrates his work on it, achieves a big increase in yield per acre, and thus continues to build up the nation's crop surplus.

Pro and con. In brief, the Chief Executive believes that the farmers need stronger governmental controls over the output of various basic crops than now exist. At the same time, he wants them to play an important part

in deciding how these controls are to operate. The President argues that his program will enable producers of each crop—working together with the Secretary of Agriculture—to draw up the kind of arrangement that best suits their needs.

Critics, though, feel that the "do-it-yourself" setup would give too much authority to the farm committees and the Secretary of Agriculture. The committees and the Secretary would send detailed plans to Congress, and the lawmakers could merely approve or reject each program as a whole. By agreeing to such an arrangement, it is argued, Congress would be turning too much of its power over to others.

Opponents also insist that Mr. Kennedy's program is headed entirely in the wrong direction. "For a number of years," they say, "the federal government has maintained an elaborate system of crop controls, farm price supports, and so on. These programs, while costly to the taxpayer, haven't solved the problem of surpluses, and they haven't resulted in a satisfactory farm income. So, by one means or another, we should try to work toward *less*—rather than *more*—government interference in this nation's farming business."

Mr. Kennedy and his supporters reply: "Farming is our largest industry, employing more people than steel, automobiles, public utilities, and the transportation business combined. Yet it differs sharply from the big manufacturing industries. Steel firms, for example, can avoid huge surpluses by cutting back their production whenever it starts running too far ahead of demand.

"As to farms, we have about 4,500,000 of them. So the action taken by any individual farmer has no effect on the market. For this reason, the farmers need extensive governmental help in controlling their output."

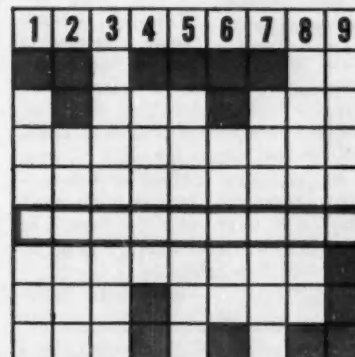
The position of farming as our "largest industry" is one big reason why questions touching on the future of American agriculture can always be expected to stir up heated controversies. This has been the case for many years and will probably continue to be.

—By TOM MYER

PUZZLE ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

Fill in numbered rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell name of Cuban mountains in the news.

1. U. S. has naval base in this Cuban province.
2. Capital of Massachusetts.
3. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.
4. Biggest of U. S. farm surpluses in storage is _____.
5. House of _____, Britain's most important branch of Parliament.
6. Oveta Culp _____ was first Secretary of HEW.
7. A U. S. state which is situated just north of Cuba.
8. This state borders on Canada.
9. Latin nation in Europe; an ally of the United States.



Last Week

HORIZONTAL: Minnesota. VERTICAL: 1. aluminum; 2. Loire; 3. Rhone; 4. Seine; 5. Pyrenees; 6. Spain; 7. Nairobi; 8. NATO; 9. Udall.

Today and Yesterday

U. S. Welfare Department

THE Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) was established in 1953 and is the youngest of our federal offices with Cabinet rank.

Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby—Texas newspaper publisher and World War II director of the Women's Army Corps (WAC)—was the first head of HEW. As such, she was the second woman in our history to hold a Cabinet secretaryship. The first was Mrs. Frances Perkins, who was Secretary of Labor when Franklin D. Roosevelt was President.



Mrs. Hobby

Although young as a Department, HEW is made up of important service agencies—some of which date back to the early days of our nation. Before HEW was established, these agencies were part of other Departments or bureaus.

The Public Health Service grew out of a hospital service ordered by Congress in 1798 to care for sailors in our merchant marine. Today, Public Health still cares for sailors, and also guards against the spread of diseases, conducts medical research, and works with the states in developing new hospitals and community health programs.

The Office of Education, set up in 1867, now oversees the distribution of federal funds to the states for schools and colleges, directs vocational educa-

tion programs in high schools, and makes recommendations on methods for improving educational standards.

The Food and Drug Administration has worked since 1907 to assure the nation of pure foods and drugs. Manufacturers are required to label the contents of their products truthfully—to state, for example, what kind of preservatives are put into canned goods to prevent decay. This agency makes numerous inspections of factories, food plants, and drugstores.

The Social Security Administration, organized in 1935, directs probably the largest social insurance operation in the world. SSA oversees programs for well over 100,000,000 people. The job involves collecting payments by workers and employers for federal pensions upon retirement, seeing to the distribution of pension payments to persons already retired, and allocating certain funds to the states. These latter funds are used for benefit payments to the elderly, workers disabled by accidents or illness, and for other purposes.

HEW maintains a Children's Bureau to work for the welfare and health of the very young as part of its social security program. An office of Vocational Rehabilitation cooperates with the states in programs to help the blind and other physically handicapped persons to find jobs. Training of these people in a variety of occupations is provided through the rehabilitation programs.

—By TOM HAWKINS

Secretary Abraham Ribicoff

Heads Welfare Program

LIGHTS frequently burn late in the offices of Abraham Ribicoff in the sprawling Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) building. The HEW Secretary is busy with a great variety of welfare, housing, education, and other similar programs. He is also faced with such thorny tasks as how Uncle Sam can best help refugees who have escaped from Cuba.

Mr. Ribicoff generally gets up at 7 in the morning and scans over the morning newspaper while eating breakfast. He also looks over reports dealing with HEW matters, and often continues to study this material as he rides to his office. At his headquarters, he keeps up with a whirlwind schedule of meetings with aides, studying reports, and doing countless other tasks.

Born 51 years ago in New Britain, Connecticut, Abraham Ribicoff has always led a busy life. As soon as he was old enough to deliver newspapers, he took over a paper route and also worked as a golf caddy to help his Russian-immigrant family meet expenses.

When he finished high school, young Ribicoff went to work in a zipper factory. He soon became the factory's sales representative in Chicago, where he studied law during his spare time. He later graduated from the University of Chicago with honors.

With a law degree to his credit, Mr. Ribicoff returned to Connecticut to practice his new profession. In time he became a partner in a successful law firm.

In 1938, Mr. Ribicoff made his first bid for public office, winning a seat in the Connecticut Assembly. Ten years later he sought and won a place in the U. S. House of Representatives. After losing out in a bid for a U. S. Senate seat in 1952, he ran a successful race for the governorship of his state 2 years later. He was re-elected to that office in 1958



Ribicoff

and was still the governor when Mr. Kennedy chose him for the HEW post after the November 1960 elections.

As governor of Connecticut, Mr. Ribicoff inaugurated a number of plans to increase aid to the state's schools, boost teachers' salaries, and improve health and welfare programs. He also undertook a project of building low-cost homes for older citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Ribicoff have 2 children—Peter, who teaches high school English in California, and Jane, who attends Pine Manor Junior College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

—By ANTON BERLE

More than 60 nations will display their products at the fifth annual U. S. World Trade Fair in New York City, May 3 to 13. There will be more than 3,000 exhibits of food, clothing, crafts, and manufactured goods.



JOHN BARRY, Deputy Chief in Washington, D. C., Fire Department, with Sergeant Daniel Plass (right), discusses study training plans for new recruits

Interviews on Careers

The Work of Fire-Fighters

ON the outskirts of the nation's capital there are spanning new brick buildings that contain a great variety of fire-fighting equipment. But the equipment is used to train men, not fight fires. Deputy Chief John Barry supervises the training activities.

"The main duties of the fireman are generally known," Chief Barry points out. "When an alarm sounds at a station, firemen put on protective clothing and are ready to drive to the scene of the fire in a matter of seconds."

"Actually, there is a division of duties among firemen. The largest number specialize in the task of preventing loss of life and keeping down property damage from fire. Some of these act as inspectors to see that city fire ordinances are kept by property owners. Others conduct training classes for new firemen and refresher courses for men already in service. Still other firemen keep the equipment in top shape."

"The duties of men who fight fires may also be broken down into various branches, all supervised by their commanding officer. Some of them clear the way for water hoses, crashing down doors with axes if necessary. Hosemen follow immediately after to direct a powerful stream of water on the blaze. Laddermen put the ladders in place to fight the fire. Rescue teams carry people to safety and give first aid when needed."

Qualifications. Good health and intelligence top the list of requirements for firemen. If you decide on this work, you must be able to pass rigid examinations plus an athletic performance test, which includes running and climbing. In most communities, only men who are at least 21 years of age and have been living in the area for a specified period of time are employed as firemen.

Training. Sergeant Daniel J. Plass, an instructor at the Washington training center, says: "Our training program begins at 8 in the morning and continues through the rest of the day. Training includes a daily drill, and practice in the use of ladders, fire hoses, and other equipment."

"Trainees also learn how to give first aid, how to rescue persons

trapped by fires, and many other skills needed to protect life and property from fire. In addition to actually working with fire-fighting equipment, the men take part in classroom study and discussions on fire-fighting problems.

"Actually, fighting fires is a science that must be carefully learned. During their intensive 35-day training period, the men are taught to fight every type of residential and commercial fire that they are likely to come up against on the job."

Job opportunities. Several thousand openings occur every year for firemen, particularly in the nation's fastest-growing communities. But there are often more applicants than there are jobs to be filled in this field. So if you want to be a fireman, check into local employment prospects now.

Earnings. Beginning salaries are as low as \$3,000 a year in small communities, but go above \$5,000 in the larger cities. (It is \$5,160 in the nation's capital.) Experienced firemen usually earn between \$5,000 and \$8,000 a year. The incomes of top officers, such as fire chief, may go as high as \$20,000 annually.

Facts to weigh. "Employment is steady and is not affected by general business conditions," Sergeant Plass points out. "Also, firemen generally have liberal pension and retirement plans. Most important, though, is the satisfaction that comes from doing a highly useful and necessary job for the community."

"The only possible drawback is the relatively long and irregular hours of work that most firemen have to endure. We stay on the job 60 hours a week here in Washington, and divide our time between a tour of duty during the day and one at night. Though fire-fighting is sometimes regarded as a hazardous occupation, modern methods and equipment have greatly reduced injuries to men while on duty."

More information. Get in touch with your city fire department. Each municipal fire department has a personnel division that you can contact for information pertaining to the requirements for appointment.

—By ANTON BERLE

Readers Say—

I feel that real censorship of movies is needed and long overdue. Americans have let their moral standards drop when they should be rising. Not only do parents go to bad movies; they sometimes take their children along. This is not good. We should take action to stop our drift away from morality.

DIANNE INMAN,
Laurel Fork, Virginia

Our class studying the Constitution received AMERICAN OBSERVER the first semester. We decided that it was so informative we have been taking it for the second semester, although we are studying sociology now.

To my mind, the farm problem is one of the most serious that we face at home. I feel that not enough emphasis is placed upon it in the press, which emphasizes the high cost of food and our agricultural surpluses. Urban Americans should be told more often about the low prices that the farmer receives for growing the food, while the wholesalers and retailers are making big profits as marketers for the city buyers.

JANET FALK,
Alta Vista, Kansas

I hope the image of America that the world sees will not be damaged permanently by the Russian "cosmonaut's" earth-shaking venture into space. Let's find out how far we are



behind the Reds in space and set out seriously to catch up.

LAURENCE AMES,
Merrick, New York

I disagree with those who are against new censorship laws for motion pictures. They should be something to enjoy, but there is no pleasure in watching the problems of our society displayed on the screen in bad taste. I do not believe that governmental censorship will extinguish freedom of speech.

CASSANDRA GLASER
Evansville, Indiana

President Kennedy is right in urging expanded assistance to Latin American lands. We cannot afford to stand by and let the southern part of our Hemisphere go to the communists.

JOHN HEILESON,
Rigby, Idaho

Mr. Kennedy's opponents state that he has asked Congress to spend more than has been the case in the past on schools, health, highways, and housing programs. The critics argue that there has to be a limit somewhere. I say that defense spending could be cut by a few billion dollars so that the domestic programs could be pushed.

KENNETH KENTNER,
Nogales, Arizona



SCENE from "The Absent-Minded Professor," first-rate comedy in which Fred MacMurray stars—and manages to "fly" his 1912 automobile

RADIO-TV AND MOVIES

MOVIES. Fred MacMurray stars in Walt Disney's new motion picture, "The Absent-Minded Professor," just released to theaters. It's a rollicking comedy in which Mr. MacMurray as the professor keeps forgetting to show up at the church for his wedding.

There is a good deal of "up-in-the-air" clowning, including the automobile "flight" in a 1912 car (pictured above). The professor is an inventor who discovers a substance that makes such "flights" possible—and also has much to do with making his school's basketball team unbeatable. The picture is rated good by the critics.

HOPE IT'S TRUE. Rumors are that Bob Newhart, the deadpan comedian who makes occasional guest appearances on Ed Sullivan's variety show, is planning to star in an NBC comedy series next fall.

AMERICAN HERITAGE, sponsored by the Equitable Life Assurance Company, presents "Woodrow Wilson and the Unknown Soldier" on NBC-TV Saturday, May 13, 9 p.m. EDT. A good part of the story concerns the 1913-1921 President's feeling about the unknown American fighter who died in World War I, and who was buried in Arlington Cemetery outside Washington, D. C.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE is the subject of the "Winston Churchill—The Valiant Years" series on ABC-TV Sunday, May 14, 10 p.m. EDT. This series on Britain's World War II Prime Minister and the conflict is, your reviewer feels, the finest historical series that television has offered. It should be repeated.

COSTLY SPORTS? The big Orange Bowl football game at Miami, Florida, will be presented by ABC on New Year's Day for the next 3 years. The telecasting company won the contract with a bid of \$256,000 annually—\$21,000 more than was offered by CBS, which has televised the game for the past several years.

MORE WESTERNS? The TV networks are busy now planning programs for next fall. Some of the cowboy shows are being dropped, but new ones are being added. Also, a few of the present half-hour "shoot-em-up" telecasts are being lengthened to 1 hour.

It's too early to be certain yet, but our guess is that the westerns will take up about as much time next season as they've had this year. Personally, we feel that the majority of them are monotonous and a waste of time.

—By TOM HAWKINS

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A friend lamented to John D. Rockefeller that he had not been able to collect a \$50,000 loan made to a business acquaintance.

"Why don't you sue him?" asked Rockefeller.

"I neglected to have him acknowledge the loan in writing."

"Well," said the oil tycoon, "just drop him a letter demanding the \$100,000 he owes you."

"But he owes me only \$50,000."

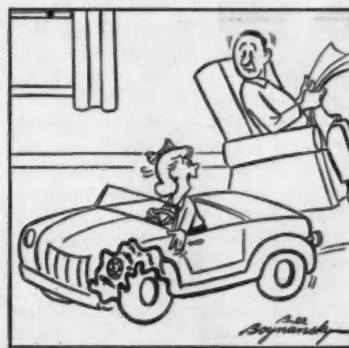
"Precisely," said Rockefeller. "He will let you know that by return mail—and you will have your acknowledgement."

The golf course was crowded, and a man and his wife were grouped into a foursome along with 2 men. The woman had trouble keeping her ball on the fairway and continually delayed the game. Her embarrassed husband began to extol her virtues as a wife.

"She's a wonderful cook, good housekeeper. Yes sir, she certainly is a gem."

One of the men looked back to see the woman hunting for her ball in the tall grass. "Sort of a diamond in the rough, eh?" he remarked.

Porter: Did you miss your train?
Out-of-breath man: No, I just didn't like the looks of it, so I chased it out of the station!



"Look, Daddy—just like Mommy did to your car today."

News Quiz

Farm Surpluses

1. In recent times, has U. S. farm population increased rapidly, increased slightly, declined slightly, or declined rapidly?
2. What is the main reason for the fast growth of our agricultural output?
3. Mention at least 3 ways in which the government has already tried to cope with surpluses and bolster farm earnings.
4. Identify Orville Freeman and George McGovern.
5. Tell how President Kennedy's "do-it-yourself" agricultural program would operate.
6. Cite 2 grounds on which opponents criticize this plan.
7. What do President Kennedy and his followers say in support of it?

Discussion

Do you believe that the Kennedy Administration's approach to the farm situation shows promise of greater success than previous governmental efforts in this field have achieved? Why or why not?

Situation in Cuba

1. Why may it be said that there are actually 2 conflicts involved in the Cuban crisis?
2. What evidence is there to indicate that Castro is not certain of majority support of his people?
3. What interest do the communist powers have in Cuba, and to what extent have they aided Castro?
4. What is our interest in the matter, and how have we assisted the rebels?
5. How does President Kennedy propose to deal with this situation and similar ones from this point on?
6. What appears to be the general viewpoint held by the majority of other U. S. leaders on the Cuban problem?
7. Briefly describe the challenge of the overall Soviet threat to the average American citizen.

Discussion

1. Do you think the United States should try to do anything else to meet the communist threat in Cuba? If not, why? If so, what?
2. In your opinion, what are some of the most effective methods, other than military, that our government could use to combat communism throughout the world?

Miscellaneous

1. What is the purpose of Loyalty Day and when is it celebrated?
2. Give some signs that point to an improvement of business in our country.
3. What started the latest uprising in French-controlled Algeria?
4. According to newsman Drummond, what are some results of recent Kennedy talks with Allied leaders?
5. Who was the first HEW Secretary? Name the present head of that agency.

Pronunciations

Antoine Gizenga—ān'twān gi-zēn'gā
Jose Miro Cardona—hō-zā' mē-rō' kār-dō'nā
Kasavubu—kā'sā-vōō'bōō
Mobutu—mō-bōō'tōō
Raul Roa—rā-ōō' rō'ā

Main Articles in Next Week's Issue

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the main articles next week will be: (1) Does automation call for a shorter work week? (2) Scandinavia.



ARROW indicates area in which Cuban rebels made first attacks against Castro government. The invaders who were not casualties joined other rebels already operating in the Escambray Mountains—and planned to direct future attacks from there. Provinces of the island country are named in the bordered boxes. U. S. naval base is in Oriente.

Russia's Base in the Caribbean

Situation in Cuba Poses Grave Problem for America

Recent tragic developments in Cuba have had serious international effects and complications. They have raised a number of thought-provoking questions about the U. S. position in relation to the Castro government.

"THE moon is blue—the fish are standing." This odd announcement was heard at intervals by radio listeners in the Caribbean area about the middle of April.

Then one night the message changed: "The moon is red—the fish are landing."

Shortly afterwards, it became known that Cuban rebels opposing the Castro government had stormed ashore on the southern coast of Cuba. Radio listeners speculated that the "fish" were actually the troops that had gone ashore, and that the mysterious message—beamed from an anti-Castro radio station—had been directed at Cubans who were cooperating with the invasion group.

Such was the beginning of a struggle which may continue for a long period of time—or which may, on the other hand, come to a quick, dramatic conclusion. Actually, there are 2 big conflicts involved. One is among the Cuban people themselves. They are bitterly divided over the Castro government.

Castro himself, of course, is the product of revolution. He and his group came to power on January 1, 1959. They started out as a small band of rebels in the same mountains where their opponents are now entrenched. Finally, after several years of small-scale, hit-and-run fighting, the bearded Castro forces finally gained enough military strength and public support to overthrow the corrupt and dictatorial Batista government.

The Cuban people were promised the sky by Castro. He was going to make everybody rich. The masses of

people were going to enjoy more political freedom and a better way of life than they had ever known under the "tyrant" Batista.

It is generally agreed that certain of these promises have been carried out. A number of the large estates have been carved up into smaller plots and distributed among people who had no land. Certain other social and economic reforms have been inaugurated.

Not too long after Castro came into power, however, increasing numbers of Cubans began to look upon the new leader as a tyrant himself. He imprisoned or killed hundreds of his political opponents. It became dangerous to speak or write against his policies. He refused to set a time when elections would be held. He seized foreign property without compensating the owners.

Refugee Movement

Finally, some of his previously strong supporters and close associates fled from Cuba to the United States. Large numbers of other Cubans did likewise. Today, there are approximately 100,000 refugees from the Caribbean island nation living in Florida.

It is from this group of people that the rebel invading forces were recruited. Most of these refugees, before they left Cuba, promised relatives and friends that they would later seek to restore freedom to their land.

If the conflict were confined merely to the Cubans themselves, the outcome would undoubtedly indicate how the majority of people feel. But such is not the case. The strife in Cuba is only one battle in a deadly international tug-of-war. It may prove, however, to be one of the decisive contests in the larger struggle.

Castro, when he came into power, lost no time in seizing American property in Cuba and carrying on a cam-

paign of hostile propaganda against the United States. Our government did no more than protest against this abuse for a number of months. But finally, in retaliation, it began to cut off our sugar purchases from Cuba.

Even before this happened, Castro expressed friendship for communist nations—especially Russia and Red China. The Soviet Union began to supply him with weapons and other goods. When we bought less sugar from Cuba, Russia and her satellites bought more.

To carry their cooperation further, about 3,000 Russian, Chinese, and Polish military "advisers" were sent to the Caribbean nation. Communist military equipment, including jet planes, tanks, and deadly guns from Czechoslovakian factories, was shipped to Castro. He and his military associates, together with the communist advisers, quickly made Cuban fighting forces at least 10 times as strong, both in quantity and efficiency, as they had been under previous governments.

The Cuban refugees who came to our shores asked for U. S. assistance in preparing them to overthrow Castro-Red rule. Our government permitted them to recruit fighting men (only Cubans, however). It is reliably reported that we helped to supply and train the rebel forces. Obviously, we did not give them anything like as much military aid as the communists gave the Castro forces. Of the approximately 1,200 invaders, 300 were reportedly killed, more than 400 were captured, and the remaining ones joined fellow rebels in the mountains. The first invasion was admittedly a failure.

If the Cuban people were free to choose between Castro and the rebels, what choice would they make? That is naturally an unknown factor. It wouldn't need to be if Castro were willing to hold an election. The fact that he refuses to do so is strong

evidence of his lack of confidence as to how he might fare if the people were allowed to go to the polls.

Another point worth mentioning here is that Castro now raves and rants to the effect that the United States is doing something terribly evil in supporting the rebels. Yet, when he was a rebel, he pleaded for U. S. assistance to help him overthrow a dictatorial government, so he apparently is not opposed on moral grounds to our aiding rebel causes; instead, he is just opposed on practical grounds when he is adversely affected.

Moreover, while he has made certain economic reforms, he has hurt Cuban business as a whole by his unfair and hostile treatment of foreign investors and the United States. Today, he is completely dependent upon the communist nations to keep the country from going bankrupt. It is obvious, therefore, that they have a large voice in making Cuban policies.

What are the stakes involved in the Cuban crisis for the United States and the free world, on one hand, and the communist nations of Russia and Red China, on the other? Why do the great powers feel it is so vital to have governments favorable to them in control of such small countries as Cuba?

The Red leaders view these lands as steppingstones in their campaign to spread communism through the world. They have sought control of Laos, because from there they would be in a good position to extend their power in Southeast Asia. They have tried hard to set up a puppet government in the Congo as a major step toward dominating Africa. They see an opportunity to use Castro to help them gain power and influence throughout Latin America.

All these lands, until a short time ago, were under non-communist governments. Laos still is, as we go to press, but its future is shaky indeed. Even if the Russians agree to a neutral Laos, many observers think it's just a matter of time until it is communist-dominated.

Other Trouble Spots

The fate of the Congo is still uncertain, and the Reds have won the first battle in Cuba. Moreover, they are threatening South Viet Nam. Thailand lives in a state of fear that it may soon be a victim of Red aggression. The Russians turn the pressure on and off West Berlin as they please.

To stop this wave of communist expansion before it engulfs the free world is the goal of the United States and its allies. It is becoming increasingly clear that we must fight fire with fire—that we must use the same mix-



REBEL LEADER Jose Miro Cardona, who planned the anti-Castro revolt



PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO of Cuba is backed by the Soviet Union



RAUL CASTRO, Fidel's brother, is communist-inclined Defense Minister

ture of force, cunning, and persistent determination that the communists do. If they arm the Castro forces to set up a communist regime in Cuba, then we have the same right to arm the freedom-loving people of that land. In fact it would be suicidal for us to sit back and let the Russians and Chinese use Cuba as a base of operations to spread communism throughout Latin America.

President Kennedy stated the case vividly and forcefully in a recent speech to newspaper editors. He said:

"... if the nations of this Hemisphere should fail to meet their commitments against outside communist penetration, then I want it clearly understood that this government will not hesitate in meeting its primary obligations, which are the security of our nation.

"Should that time ever come, we do not intend to be lectured on intervention by those whose character was stamped for all time on the bloody streets of Budapest." (The President was referring, of course, to the brutal use of force by Russia in putting down the rebellion in Hungary.)

Mr. Kennedy continued his remarks by praising the courage of the rebels who invaded Cuba:

"This is not the first time in either ancient or recent history that a small band of freedom fighters has engaged the armor of totalitarianism. It is not the first time that communist tanks have rolled over gallant men and women fighting to redeem the independence of their homeland. Nor is it by any means the final episode in the eternal struggle against tyranny anywhere on the face of the globe, including Cuba."

Most editorial writers, news commentators, and leaders in Congress appear to be solidly in favor of doing whatever is necessary to combat the communist threat in Cuba. There has been criticism of the Kennedy Administration in connection with the Cuban invasion, but mainly because it failed. Senator Aiken of Vermont expressed the feeling of most critics when he said:

"There is growing support in official circles for more drastic action in Cuba." He added, "The situation thus far has been badly handled and sadly misjudged."

President Kennedy himself indicated his dissatisfaction with what happened. He made this statement shortly after the rebel invasion had failed: "We intend to profit from this lesson."

The President began an immediate study of what went wrong. He ordered an investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency, whose job it is to supply reliable information about the military strength and weakness of enemy

forces. He appointed General Maxwell Taylor to recommend measures for strengthening our ability to wage paratroop and small-scale warfare, such as we may have to wage in nations like Cuba, Laos, and Viet Nam.

Mr. Kennedy also conferred with top Republican leaders—former President Eisenhower, Richard M. Nixon, Arizona's Senator Goldwater, and Governor Rockefeller of New York.

Reportedly his purpose in meeting with these men was to let the outside world know that America is united in favor of taking more decisive action to preserve freedom and check the spread of communism. As a matter of fact, it is said on good authority that our government began to cooperate with the Cuban rebels about a year ago under the Eisenhower Administration.

Our Allies' Attitude

How do our allies feel about the Cuban invasion and Kennedy's declaration of war against communist penetration of this hemisphere? Some leaders in Latin American and neutral lands such as India complain that our government is interfering in Cuba's affairs. Certain of our allies elsewhere are worried that we have aroused old fears among Latin Americans—fears that we are trying to dominate them.

But President Kennedy contends that Soviet-Chinese control of Cuba presents an even graver danger to

Latin American nations than it does to us. He hopes that these countries, through the Organization of American States, will cooperate with us in smothering the communist threat in this hemisphere before it grows to alarming proportions. He thinks that Latin leaders who are concerned over our "interference" in Cuba should be much more concerned over the Soviet-Chinese interference there. While it is true that we are pledged not to intervene in the affairs of other nations in this hemisphere, we and other American republics are also pledged to resist the spread of communism in this region or the penetration of the area by any non-American power.

For 138 years, since November 1823, the Monroe Doctrine has been the cornerstone of our foreign policy. It declares that any attempt by European powers to extend their control over lands of this hemisphere will be regarded as "dangerous to our peace and security."

We enforced this doctrine by ourselves for a long period of time, but the other American republics have agreed in recent years to share in the responsibility. One of the duties of the Organization of American States is to keep this hemisphere free of outside domination. If it fails to do so, President Kennedy warns, our nation will again do the job by itself.

Are we not running a serious risk of war with the communist powers by supporting the rebel cause in Cuba? That is admittedly a calculated risk, but it is generally felt among informed observers that the Red leaders will not start a major conflict over Cuba; that they will do everything possible short of war to gain their objectives and to keep the "pot boiling," but will not go beyond that.

Where do we head from here? In addition to our preparations for using more effective military methods to combat communism in smaller lands such as Cuba, a number of our government leaders feel that we must work harder than ever along other fronts. We should hammer away at the idea that democracy offers people a free way of life—free speech, press, religion, elections, etc.—as opposed to slavery and dictatorial rule.

We should stress over and over again that those who live in communist lands can't speak out and worship freely; can't vote tyrannical leaders out of office. Khrushchev himself should be repeatedly quoted when he said that he and other communist leaders were helpless to prevent Stalin's terrible crimes. What could be a better commercial for democracy and free elections?

At the same time, we must convince the poorer lands that we are just as determined to achieve better living conditions for them as the communists claim to be. We can agree with Red propaganda that people can't "eat" freedom, but we can insist that there's no reason why they can't eat well and be free too.

The final outcome of this global struggle will be of tremendous importance to world peace, to democracy, and to the future security of our nation. Consequently, every citizen of this country should carefully study the facts and issues involved. Every citizen should be willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to halt the expansion of communist control, influence, and false propaganda.

Varying Viewpoints

There will be differences of opinion among us, as always, over how best to deal with each crisis. Certain Americans, for example, do not believe that we should act alone in dealing with the Cuban situation. They think our government should make every possible effort to get the majority of Latin American republics to join with us against the communist menace.

But no patriotic American will remain uninformed or indifferent to the crisis facing this nation and the world. No longer can we "underestimate" or "misjudge" the communists. Through words and actions, they have made their intentions crystal clear. It is now up to those who place a high value on freedom to meet the challenge, or they may see their dreams obliterated for all time.

Such is the real meaning of the Cuban crisis. Its true significance can be understood only when it is viewed as part of the international picture as a whole.



THE CUBANS modeled their capitol building in Havana after our own in Washington, D. C.

PHILIP GENDRON

Story of the Week

Algeria, Laos, and The United Nations

Algeria. It's hard to tell who has given President de Gaulle of France the most trouble in Algeria—the native rebels or the French military leaders there who oppose independence for the African region. Last week, the De Gaulle government was grappling with the third serious mutiny of its army officers in Algeria since 1958. Their aim—nothing less than the overthrow of the De Gaulle government. The French President asked for and received sweeping powers to deal with the emergency.

Laos. Can a conference of 14 nations turn this Southeast Asian trouble spot into a neutral state, free of any outside interference? This is one of the big international questions of the hour. We shall have more to say on the subject next week.

United Nations. The 15th UN Assembly began its session last September 20 with a star-studded cast including Eisenhower, Khrushchev, Nehru, Macmillan, Tito, Castro, and Sukarno. After some weeks of much talk but little action, the session was recessed for nearly 3 months while the Kennedy Administration was getting organized and adjusted. The Assembly resumed work in March and adjourned on Friday, April 21.

During this long session, the delegates (1) agreed to keep troops in the Congo; (2) repeated the call to Belgium to remove her troops from there; (3) asked the UN Secretary-General to continue his efforts to bring the opposing Congolese groups together; (4) asked for an end of all colonialism as soon as possible; (5) criticized South Africa's racial policies; (6) failed to make any progress on such basic issues as disarmament.

The Assembly's membership reached an all-time high of 99. Sixteen African nations plus the new Republic of Cyprus were brought into the world body.

Top-Level Talks Bear Fruit, Columnist Says

President Kennedy's top-level meetings with leaders of other countries are already paying dividends, says news columnist Roscoe Drummond. Mr. Drummond believes that the following gains have been made for the western world:

1. Such senior Allied leaders as

British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer have established a relationship of trust with President Kennedy. This will now make it easier for them to work together for a common policy.

2. As a result of Mr. Kennedy's encouragement, Britain is slowly but definitely taking steps to join France, West Germany, and other countries on the continent in a plan for cooperating on matters of trade. This is an historic change in British policy.

3. Both Britain and West Germany have agreed to step up their aid to underdeveloped countries.

Current History Forums For Visiting Students

Does your class plan to visit the nation's capital any time during the year? If so, you may want to attend one of the current history programs offered by the U. S. State Department for high school students. Whenever possible, they are held on dates requested by visiting students. However, you must let the State Department know well in advance when you plan to visit the nation's capital.

Global briefing officers will attend the special forums to discuss big world issues and the role America is playing in international affairs. The State Department officers will also answer questions raised by the visiting students.

If you would like more information about these programs, write to the Office of Public Services, Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

Congress Hears from Voters Back Home

Letters from individual Americans are now pouring in on Capitol Hill in record volume. What do these letters say? A good many of them give opinions on whether or not Uncle Sam should help private and religious schools as well as the public schools. Feelings are about equally divided.

There is also a great deal of mail on the President's proposal to boost minimum wages from \$1.00 to \$1.25 an hour. A slight majority favor this measure.

Other issues on which the legislators are getting heavy mail these days include the Peace Corps and the Administration farm program. Most Peace Corps letters favor this idea, but the



THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE each year brings students from many lands to visit in American homes and schools—and also to take part in discussions. A delegate, Miss Khin Hla of Burma, looks over the *American Observer* with Susan Sheppard (right), a student at John Jay High School in Cross River, N. Y.

mail on agriculture so far has been about equally divided for and against the White House proposal.

If you would like to express an opinion on issues before Congress, write to the senator or representative from your district. In addressing your letter, say The Honorable John Smith, U. S. House of Representatives (or United States Senate), Washington 25, D. C.

Day to Renew Loyalty Pledge to Our Nation

Parades and patriotic speeches are being held in many communities across the nation on May 1 in honor of Loyalty Day as well as Law Day. Both of these celebrations—the first is proclaimed by the President and the second is sponsored by the American Bar Association—are held for the purpose of reminding Americans of the individual rights and freedoms as well as duties they have as citizens.

May 1 is celebrated in many countries in Europe and elsewhere as Labor Day in honor of the working man. It is also a day for big celebrations by communists in Moscow and other places. In fact, the idea for Loyalty Day came largely from Americans who sought to reaffirm their patriotism on a day used by Reds everywhere to show off their might.

News Capsules from The Congo and Angola

The Republic of the Congo appears to be making some headway in settling the explosive problem of divided leadership at home. Not long ago, Antoine Gizenga—the pro-Red Premier of eastern sections of the Congo—agreed to regard General Joseph Mobutu as military commander in chief of the entire country. General Mobutu directs the military forces of the Congolese government of President Joseph Kasavubu.

Meanwhile, President Kasavubu, Premier Gizenga, and other Congolese leaders have agreed to discuss plans for uniting their country under one government.

Angola, a Portuguese-controlled colony next to the Congo, reports mounting strife and bloodshed as the native drive for independence gains momentum there. So far, Portugal has re-

fused to consider all of Angola's demands for freedom.

U. S. Economy Gets Brighter Outlook

According to many economic experts, there are a number of signs that the nation is pulling out of the business slump that began last year. In fact, some economists—including Arthur Burns who served as an adviser to Mr. Eisenhower when he was President—believe the nation will have a full-scale business boom by 1962.

Other experts, while agreeing that business is getting better, don't believe we are headed for prosperous times just yet. These individuals—including Paul Samuelson who is unofficial adviser to President Kennedy on economic matters—feel that unemployment and other similar problems will be with us for a while longer.

Was Russia's Manned Space Flight a Hoax?

Did Russia's Major Yuri Gagarin really circle the globe in a satellite as stated by Moscow? News columnist David Lawrence and some other Americans have expressed doubt regarding this feat, though they agree Moscow sent up a satellite at the time of the purported historic flight. They contend that Soviet secrecy and contradictory statements about the trip put its authenticity in doubt.

Many scientists, however, feel certain that Russia sent a man spinning around the globe in a satellite. Speaking for this group, Dr. Frank Press of the California Institute of Technology recently said, "As far as I am concerned, there is no doubt in the minds of knowledgeable persons in this field that the Russians did what they said they did."

SPECIAL NOTICE

The American Observer is discontinuing its past policy of publishing during the summer months. This will enable the staff to prepare special features which we believe will make for an improved paper when school resumes next September. The last issue of this semester will be May 22.



NEW LOOK for old Hong Kong, Britain's Crown Colony in Southeast Asia. This development will house 33,000 people when completed, and will help to reduce overcrowded conditions that have existed for many years.

